

TWIN FALLS TIMES NEWS

Beck named CSI president

By Sandy Miller

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TWIN FALLS -- Jerry Beck is now the third president of the College of Southern Idaho.

The board on Monday voted unanimously for Beck to succeed Jerry Meyerhoeffer.

Beck had been named interim president when Meyerhoeffer retired at the end of June.

The board made the official decision Monday, but their minds were pretty well made up after an executive session last Wednesday in which board members informally decided there was no need to look farther, according to a news release.

Dr. Thad Scholes, who's served on the board for 24 years, said the choice of Beck was a no-brainer.

"He is amazingly competent," Scholes said.

He said multitasking is one of Beck's strong suits, saying Beck can juggle a lot of things at once and "do them all well."

The board also was impressed with Beck's community college background and his involvement in economic development.

"He's had more to do with the economic success of the Magic Valley than anyone I can name," Scholes said.

Other board members also sang Beck's praises. Dr. Charles Lehrman called Beck a "community builder" as he listed his 30 years of leadership and vision. Donna Brizee asked, "Who else could do a better job?"

"I think I'm humbled by the board making the decision as fast as they did, yet honored," Beck said. "This is a great, fantastic place to be."

Beck thanked his colleagues and those who have mentored him along the way, especially Meyerhoeffer, who helped him hone his leadership skills.

He also thanked his wife, Barbara, and their children for their patience and support.

Beck said his intention is to make sure that CSI remains second to none among community colleges.

"The general community seems very pleased with where it's been and where it's going," Beck said. "I don't see any major changes whatsoever."

Beck earned his doctorate in education at the University of Idaho and also studied at Harvard University. He began his career at CSI as a small-engine instructor in 1975. Three years later, he became the coordinator of CSI's trade and industry programs. In 1984, he was named dean of continuing education and summer school. He became the vice president of instruction in 1992 and later the college's executive vice president and chief academic officer.

Beck said his salary has not yet been negotiated. He's currently making \$118,700 a year.

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